

UTAH METH FACTS

- Methamphetamine is the number one illegal drug of choice for all Utahns admitted to public substance-abuse treatment programs and has been since 2001. Last year it accounted for nearly 28 percent of 18,985 admissions
- Meth admissions increased from 8.1 percent of all admissions in 1995 to 27.6 percent last year
- Meth is the primary substance of choice for women, reaching 36.8 percent of all admissions last year, surpassing alcohol at 22 percent
- Nearly three-quarters of women in treatment are mothers; 57 percent of all meth admissions have at least one child
- Meth is the drug of choice for 46 percent of women in their child-bearing years
- Drug abuse was a contributing factor leading to 1,910 children entering state custody last year
- Last year meth was the primary substance of choice for 18-to-35-year-olds entering public treatment programs
- Last year more than 40 percent of drug court participants reported meth as their primary drug of choice, compared to 27.6 percent in the general treatment population
- Meth is the second substance of choice for men in treatment accounting for just over 22 percent of admissions. Alcohol remains their primary choice at just over 38 percent
- Clients admitted with an arrest history were arrested an average of 3 times in the six months prior to entering treatment. During treatment, arrests dropped to 0.6 times per client
- Family treatment is far more cost effective than jail for meth addicts. Each family treatment slot in Salt Lake County costs about \$15,000 yearly. If the same person is jailed, it costs about \$27,000 annually plus an additional \$33,000 to house each child in foster care.

Data From Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health
Utah Division of Child and Family Services &
Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse Services
January 2006